

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 97. (Canceled)

98. (NEW) A foam cushion formed from:

- (a) natural rubber;
- (b) ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymer;
- (c) azodicarbonamide (AC);
- (d) a polymeric adhesion modifier;
- (e) dicumyl peroxide; and
- (f) a combination of zinc oxide and stearic acid.

99. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) is obtained from the *Hevea brasiliensis* tree, the guayule bush *Parthenoim argentatum*, the *Sapotaceae* tree, or a combination thereof.

100. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) is a latex grade.

101. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 100 wherein the latex grade is ribbed smoked sheet (RSS), white and pale crepes, pure blanket crepes, or a combination thereof.

102. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) is a remilled grade.

103. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 102 wherein the remilled grade is estate brown crepes, estate compo crepes, thin brown crepes or remils, thick brown crepes or ambers, flat bark crepes, or a combination thereof.

104. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) is technically-specified natural rubber (TSR), superior processing natural rubber (SP), technically classified

natural rubber (TC), air-dried sheet natural rubber (ADS), skin natural rubber, deproteinized natural rubber (DPNR), oil-extended natural rubber (OENR), hevealplus MG natural rubber, epoxidized natural rubber, or a combination thereof.

105. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) comprises cis-polyisoprene.

106. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) comprises trans-polyisoprene.

107. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) comprises a mixture of cis- and trans-polyisoprene.

108. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber (NR) comprises about 93 wt.% to about 95 wt.% of polyisoprene.

109. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber is employed up to about 80 wt.% of the foam cushion.

110. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber is employed in about 5 wt.% to about 12 wt.% of the foam cushion.

111. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the natural rubber is employed in about 7 wt.% to about 9 wt.% of the foam cushion.

112. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymer comprises about 15 wt.% to about 75 wt.% vinyl acetate.

113. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) is employed up to about 95 wt.% of the foam cushion.

114. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) is employed in about 79 wt.% to about 83 wt.% of the foam cushion.

115. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) is employed in about 80.5 wt.% to about 82.5 wt.% of the foam cushion.

116. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the azodicarbonamide (AC) is employed in about 0.1 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of the foam cushion.

117. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the azodicarbonamide (AC) is employed in about 3 wt.% to about 4.2 wt.% of the foam cushion.

118. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the azodicarbonamide (AC) is employed in about 3.5 wt.% to about 4.0 wt.% of the foam cushion.

119. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier comprises an anhydride grafted polyolefin resin, a styrene maleic anhydride (SMA) copolymer, or a combination thereof.

120. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier comprises a maleic anhydride grafted polyolefin resin.

121. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier comprises an anhydride grafted polyolefin resin, wherein the polyolefin is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, EPDM, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), a copolymer thereof, and combinations thereof.

122. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier comprises modified ethylene acrylate carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene vinyl acetates

(EVAs), polyethylene, metallocene polyethylenes, ethylene propylene rubbers, polypropylenes, or a combination thereof.

123. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier is employed in about 0.5 wt.% to about 15.0 wt.% of the foam cushion.

124. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier is employed in about 2.8 wt.% to about 3.9 wt.% of the foam cushion.

125. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the polymeric adhesion modifier is employed in about 3.0 wt.% to about 3.5 wt.% of the foam cushion.

126. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the zinc oxide and stearic acid is employed up to about 25 wt.% of the foam cushion.

127. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the zinc oxide and stearic acid is employed in about 1.5 wt.% to about 13.5 wt.% of the foam cushion.

128. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 wherein the zinc oxide and stearic acid is employed in about 2.0 wt.% to about 13.0 wt.% of the foam cushion.

129. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 98 further comprising at least one of a cure retarder, a reinforcing agent, a filler, an extender, a plasticizer, a vulcanization agent, an antioxidant, a fire retardant, an accelerator, a colorant, an electrically conductive material, and a stabilizer.

130. (NEW) A foam cushion formed from:

(a) natural rubber employed in about 5 wt.% to about 12 wt.% of the foam cushion;

(b) an ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymer employed in about 79 wt.% to about 83 wt.% of the foam cushion;

(c) azodicarbonamide (AC) employed in about 3 wt.% to about 4.2 wt.% of the foam cushion;

(d) a polymeric adhesion modifier employed in about 2.8 wt.% to about 3.9 wt.% of the foam cushion;

(e) dicumyl peroxide employed in about 0.5 wt.% to about 0.9 wt.% of the foam cushion; and

(f) a combination of zinc oxide and stearic acid, wherein the zinc oxide is employed in about 1.0 wt.% to about 2.2 wt.% of the foam cushion and stearic acid is employed in about 0.5 wt.% to about 1.25 wt.% of the foam cushion.

131. (NEW) The foam cushion of claim 130 further comprising at least one of a cure retarder, a reinforcing agent, a filler, an extender, a plasticizer, a vulcanization agent, an antioxidant, a fire retardant, an accelerator, a colorant, an electrically conductive material, and a stabilizer.